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|-------------------------------|------------------------|--|---------------------|--|
| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/058,312 | | SHIGEMI ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | | Art Unit | |
| | Alain L. Bashore | | 1762 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12-14-05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |
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ALAIN L. BASHORE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-9 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present invention includes independent claims 1 and 8. Claim 1 recites an electronic settlement system for allowing payment for a purchase from a virtual shop on a network by a purchaser using a terminal connected to said network; claim 8 recites a computer readable medium that stores a contrail program for an electronic settlement system for allowing payment for a purchase from a virtual shop on a network by a purchaser using a terminal connected to the network.

Ryoo is considered the closest prior art. Ryoo discloses an electronic settlement system for allowing payment for goods purchased by the user to be performed on a network from a virtual shop on the network via a terminal connected to the network (fig 2). A payment method, settlement unit (150) and electronic money purchasing unit is disclosed (140). When payment instruction is received, purchases the prepaid type electronic money in place of the user on the network by the settlement. The user is notified of a balance.

Ryoo does not disclose the combination including:

In claim 1:

a paying method presenting unit means for receiving a verification from said terminal that said purchaser would like to make the purchase, sending a message to said terminal directing said purchaser to pay using prepaid electronic money and asking whether said purchaser already owns prepaid electronic money, and if said purchaser does not already own prepaid electronic money, sending an inquiry to said terminal asking whether said purchaser would like to buy a set amount of prepaid electronic money over said network;

a settlement unit means for making a settlement via said network for a purchase price when prepaid electronic money is bought on behalf of said purchaser ; and

an electronic money purchasing unit , means for receiving an instruction to buy said set amount of prepaid electronic money from said purchaser via said terminal, purchasing said set amount of prepaid electronic money over said network on behalf of said purchaser aided by said settlement unit, and notifying said purchaser of an identification number allocated to the prepaid electronic money that has been

purchased and reporting a balance remaining after payment for the purchase is subtracted from said set amount of prepaid electronic money.

In claim 8:

a paying method presenting step which, 'when said shop receives verification from said terminal that said purchaser would like to make the purchase, sends a message to said terminal directing said purchaser to pay using prepaid electronic money and asking whether said purchaser already owns prepaid electronic money, and if said purchaser does not already own prepaid electronic money, sending an inquiry to said terminal asking whether said purchaser would like to buy a set amount of prepaid electronic money over said network;

a settlement step which makes a settlement via said network for a purchase price when prepaid electronic money is bought on behalf of said purchaser, and

an electronic money purchasing step which, when an instruction to buy said set amount of prepaid electronic money is received from said purchaser via said terminal, purchases said set amount of prepaid electronic money over said network on behalf of said purchaser in conjunction with

said settlement step, and notifies said purchaser of an identification number allocated to the prepaid type electronic money that has been purchased and reports a balance remaining after payment for the purchase is subtracted from said set amount of prepaid electronic money.

For these reasons claims 1 and 8 are deemed to be allowable over the prior art of record, and claims 2-7, 9 are allowable by dependency.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion


3. Allowable subject matter may require further review for applications in class 705 before a notice of allowance is mailed to applicant. The time period for review may vary from application to application.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alain L. Bashore whose telephone number is 571-272-6739. The examiner can normally be reached on about 7:30 am to 5:00 pm (Mon. thru Thurs.).

Regarding all Class 705 applications, the management contact regarding examination is: Vincent Millin (SPE, art unit 3624) at 571-272-6747.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy Meeks can be reached on 571-272-1423. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Alain L. Bashore
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1762